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31 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Re COINS With Morton Goulder, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indications and Warning, 30 August 1973

1. I gathered together 18 CIA analysts (including 3 from CRS) from all of the DDI production offices, IAS, NPIC, OSI and FMSAC to meet with Mr. Goulder. All had made some use of COINS. (Note: A year or so ago it would have been difficult to find 5 CIA COINS users.) Mr. Goulder opened the meeting by stating that he found using COINS a fairly frustrating experience and that he would like their views on the system and COINS files. For the next 2 hours he went around the table soliciting same.
2. The gist of the CIA comments were as follows:
 - (a) Most analysts had obtained useful information from COINS; some found it quite useful (IAS, NPIC, OBG, FMSAC).
 - (b) Some COINS files are not updated frequently enough for current intelligence use (NSA flight activity; an NSA future events file).
 - (c) No one depended exclusively on a COINS file for information; COINS was another source worth checking.
 - (d) Most analysts use COINS via a CRS intermediary; they found this a satisfactory mode of operation.
 - (e) The newer, younger analyst, as opposed to the old timer, is more likely to want to try COINS.
 - (f) Those that had actually used a terminal were critical of the system aspects of COINS; i.e., slow turnaround, multiple query languages, output bound, output printing too slow, etc.

MOR/CDE

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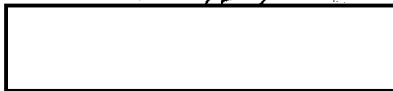
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2 -

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3. If I were Mr. Goulder, I would have been left
with the impression that CIA users have a positive
attitude toward COINS. I think he got what he wanted;
i.e., honest opinions from users.



STAT

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